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Letter dated 24 February 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 16 February 1999, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of Cyprus and of the Flight Information Region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 22 February 1999.

On that day one (1) military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, as well as one (1) Turkish aircraft of low velocity entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations.

The aircraft in question violated the national airspace of Cyprus, flying over the areas of Karpasia and Mesaoria respectively. The first mentioned aircraft exited thereafter in a south-easterly direction, while the second one landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of Cyprus.

As stated in my previous letters, these Turkish unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia FIR and the national airspace of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention to the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey which constitute a further reminder of that country's offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I would like to underline that the present violations occurred after the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1217 and 1218 which called upon all States to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus and to refrain from any action which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and

territorial integrity. My Government expects that the Turkish side will show compliance with the provisions of these resolutions.

Such provocative actions are not conducive to reducing tension and run counter to the initiative of the Secretary-General announced on 30 September 1998, within the framework of his Mission of Good Offices, with the goal of reducing tensions and promoting progress towards a just and lasting settlement in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative